

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if I could say a word before closure takes place, I know the burden on the majority leader is significant. There is so much to do and so little time to do it. Through the Chair, I express my desire to the majority leader that we figure out a way—he figure out a way—we can move to the DOD authorization bill at the earliest possible date. I think it is so important we do that.

I visited Walter Reed yesterday. It is important we set the right tone for those men and women fighting over there. Part of that would be to do the DOD authorization.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, we have a lot to do in the next week and a half. DOD authorization, as the Democrat leader and as my colleagues know, is a high priority. We also are doing our very best to come to an agreement on how to bring stem cells to the floor of the Senate, to bring the native Hawaiian issue to the floor of the Senate, and gun liability issues we talked about earlier this morning.

We are making progress. We did not quite finish foreign operations today but we will tomorrow. As we complete that bill and we finish with the Dorr nomination, we will hopefully be able to accomplish all of those bills. It is asking a lot.

PROVIDING EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS FUNDED OUT OF THE HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 3332 received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3332) to provide an extension of highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund pending enactment of a law reauthorizing the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st century.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 3332) was read the third time and passed.

AUTHORIZATION TO SIGN DULY ENROLLED BILLS OR JOINT RESOLUTIONS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the adjournment of the Senate, the majority leader and majority whip be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2385, and that the bill be referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we vitiate that last request on the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

URGING THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN AND THE SUDAN PEOPLE'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT/ARMY TO FULLY IMPLEMENT THE COMPREHENSIVE PEACE AGREEMENT OF JANUARY 9, 2005

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 202, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 202) urging the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army to fully implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of January 9, 2005.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I have submitted this resolution with regard to Sudan, a country in Africa I have personally spent a lot of time in and participated with, both in the south and the north, in promoting peace there.

There have been 2 million people who have died in the Sudan as a product of a civil war that is now about 24 years old, and about 5 to 6 million people have been displaced.

The Sudan Peace Act looked predominantly at the north versus the south, although it is much more complicated than that oversimplified comment. It is a separate issue than the Darfur crisis in western Sudan, which this body has also paid a lot of attention to.

Real progress is being made in that part of the world, but continued focus will be required to bring peace to that part of Africa.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 202) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 202

Whereas the people of Sudan have been devastated by war for all but 10 years since Sudan gained its independence in 1956;

Whereas the second civil war in Sudan between the Government of Sudan in the north and the Sudan People's Liberation Army in the south began in 1983 and lasted for more than 20 years;

Whereas more than 2,000,000 people died and more than 4,000,000 people were internationally displaced or became refugees as a direct or indirect result of the civil war in Sudan;

Whereas the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army failed on numerous occasions to bring a peaceful and just end to the civil war in Sudan throughout the 1990s;

Whereas in September 2001, President George W. Bush appointed former Senator John Danforth as Special Envoy for Peace in Sudan to explore the potential of the United States to become involved in searching for a just resolution to the civil war in Sudan, and appointed Andrew Natsios, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, as the Special Humanitarian Coordinator for Sudan to enhance the delivery of assistance that could help reduce the suffering of the people of Sudan;

Whereas in July 2002, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army reached the historic Machakos Protocol, an agreement on the role of religion in Sudan and the right to self-determination for the people of southern Sudan;

Whereas in October 2002, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army signed a memorandum of understanding that called for a cessation of hostilities and unimpeded humanitarian access to all areas of Sudan;

Whereas peace talks continued throughout 2003, with discussions focusing on wealth sharing and the control of 3 contested areas of Sudan;

Whereas on November 19, 2004, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army signed a declaration committing themselves to reach a final comprehensive peace agreement by December 31, 2004, in the context of a special session of the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas on November 19, 2004, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Security Council Resolution 1574, which welcomed the commitment of the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army to reach an agreement by the end of 2004, and highlighted the intention of the international community to assist the people of Sudan and support the implementation of a comprehensive peace agreement;

Whereas the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army initiated the final elements of a comprehensive peace agreement on December 31, 2004;

Whereas on January 9, 2005, the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army formally signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement;

Whereas the Comprehensive Peace Agreement provides for a new constitution, new arrangements for power sharing and wealth sharing, and a 6-year interim period to be followed by a referendum in southern Sudan so that the people of southern Sudan can decide their political future;

Whereas the Comprehensive Peace Agreement provides for new institutions to be created and a new Government of National